

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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R 031140Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4167

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

UNCLAS DHAHRAN 0157

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASUP, SA

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL VEHICLE AND FSL POSITION (DRIVER)

REF: A. STATE 241409 B. JIDDA 6016

1. THE CONSULATE GENERAL HAS TWO SEDANS, ONE CARRYALL, ONE CREWCAB PICK-UP IN ITS FLEET.

2. THE ODOMETER READINGS FOR THESE VEHICLES ARE:

A. 1971 PLYMOUTH SEDAN 43384 MILES. AVERAGE PER MONTH P1112 MILES.

B. 1973 CHEVROLET SEDAN 15736 MILES (ASSIGNED TO CONSUL GENERAL). AVERAGE PER MONTH 983 MILES.

C. 1971 INTERNATIONAL CREWCAB 73127 KILOMETERS. AVERAGE PER MONTH 1741 KILOMETERS.

D. 1973 CHEVROLET CARRYALL 15015, AVERAGE PER MONTH 2145MILES.

3. MAINTENANCE: AVAILABILITY OF PARTS AND QUALITY OF MAINTENANCE, AT THE CONSULATE GARAGE, IS SATISFACTORY.

4. SCHEDULING: ASSIGNMENTS INCLUDE:

A. DRIVER AND CHEVROLET SEDAN ASSIGNED TO CONSUL GENERAL.

B. DRIVER AND SEDAN TO TAKE CONSULATE LADIES (SAUDI GOVERNMENT PROHIBITS WOMEN DRIVING) FOR SHOPPING, LUNCHEONS, DOCTOR'S VISITS FOR APPROXIMATELY 20 HOURS PER WEEK INCLUDING A DAILY RUN TO PICK UP CHILDREN ATTENDING PRE-SCHOOL, UNCLASSIFIED

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WHICH IS LOCATED OFF THE COMPOUND.

C. DRIVER AND CARRYALL TO PICK UP GROCERIES AT ARAMCO FACILITY, SIX HOURS PER WEEK.
D. DAILY DRINKING WATER DELIVERY AND TRASH COLLECTION DONE BY ONE DRIVER, THREE HOURS EACH DAY.
E. DAILY RUN TO SAUDI POST OFFICE, USMTM, ARAMCO AND VARIOUS OTHER OFFICES TO PICK UP AND DELIVER MAIL AND MESSAGES.
F. DAILY USE OF CARRYALL OR CREWCAB BY C&R OFFICER TO PICK UP AND DELIVER MAIL AND POUCHES TO THE APO.
G. DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS AT AIRPORT OF NUMEROUS OFFICIAL VISITORS.
H. VEHICLE AND DRIVER REQUIRED FOR NEWLY ARRIVED PERSONNEL UNTIL THEY GET THEIR OWN PERSONAL VEHICLES AND SAUDI DRIVER LICENSE FOR TWO TO FIVE MONTHS.
I. DAILY USE OF CARRYALL OR CREWCAB FOR FOUR HOURS BY GENERAL SERVICES AND CONSULAR SECTION FOR CUSTOMS CLEARING, AND OBTAINING EXIT AND RE-ENTRY VISAS FOR OFFICIAL VISITORS.

5. ALL OF THE ABOVE ACTIVITIES ARE ACCOMPLISHED WITH TWO OFFICIAL DRIVERS (ONE WHOLLY ASSIGNED TO CONSUL GENERAL). THE CONSULATE GENERAL USES WAREHOUSEMAN AND AUTO MECHANIC AS DRIVERS TO ACCOMPLISH REQUIRED WORK. AS A RESULT, THERE ARE MANY INSTANCES WHEN THERE IS NO AUTO MECHANIC AND/OR WAREHOUSEMAN AVAILABLE TO PERFORM THEIR REQUIRED TASKS. BEYOND THIS, CONSULATE OFFICERS MUST DRIVE THEMSELVES TO APPOINTMENTS AND OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS USING BOTH OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE VEHICLES. FINALLY, WHEN ONE OF THE DRIVERS IS ON LEAVE, THE ENTIRE OPERATION IS INTERRUPTED BY TRYING TO ARRANGE ALL ACTIVITIES AROUND THIS SCHEDULE OF THE REMAINING DRIVER.

6. AS INDICATED IN JIDDA'S REFTTEL, THE INCREASE IN COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY IN SAUDI ARABIA HAS BEEN TREMENDOUS; THE NUMBER OF OFFICIAL VISITORS IS OVERWHELMING. THE CONSULATE GENERAL OFTEN HAS TO ASK OFFICIAL VISITORS TO FIND ALTERNATE MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION BECAUSE THE MOTOR POOL IS SWAMPED.

7. REQUIREMENTS: IN ORDER TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE TRANSPORTATION TO FULFILL ALL ABOVE ACTIVITIES, AND TO PROVIDE BETTER SERVICE TO FACILITATE EXPANDING COMMERCIAL PROGRAMS IN THE EASTERN PROVINCE, ONE ADDITIONAL STATION WAGON TYPE VEHICLE, CAPACITY 8-10 PERSONS, AND ONE ADDITIONAL DRIVER (FSL POSITION)
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IS REQUIRED.
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